

Lyons Muir Church
1074 Olmstead Rd
Muir, MI 48860
P.O. Box 218
Muir, MI 48860-0218

August 2022
Volume 2, Issue 16

August 2022

“Looking Forward: Fresh Expressions”

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:45

August 1st marks a month that I’ve been serving as your pastor, and we started out with some big topics together. Some good conversation has come from them, and I’m excited to see the directions in which this Church moves in the months that are to come. I want to give you today a little bit of a road map for the next month or so.

Our next sermon series surrounds the idea of Fresh Expressions. Fresh Expressions, the thing I’m in my Doctorate of Ministry program to focus on, are really nothing new in the history of Methodism. Most of our churches started as something akin to a Fresh Expression, but in the time that has passed, we’ve forgotten about them.



Attendance:

The average attendance for the month of July was 22.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	Worship on the Lord’s Day, 11
MONDAYS	No regular events
TUESDAYS	Office Hours, 9-12
WEDNESDAYS	No regular events
THURSDAYS	Office Hours, 9-2
FRIDAYS	No regular events

UPCOMING EVENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
August 14-18, 6-8 PM

Fresh Expressions are nothing more than using the contexts, people groups, and interests we have in order to create new ways of doing Church for a changing world. Church that might take place outside of Sunday, outside of the Church, or in a form that looks nothing like our sermon-based services (this last one is almost universally true). It's a way of doing and being Church that any one of you can do, whether you've read the Bible cover-to-cover or know a handful of Bible stories only.

In the series that is to come, we'll be talking about how we can bring vitality back to our churches and how it all begins with a Bible story and four simple questions:

1. If the story happened today what would it look like?
2. What's the story saying to me?
3. Could it make a difference to my life? How?
4. (About the last week's discussion) Did it make a difference to my life? How?

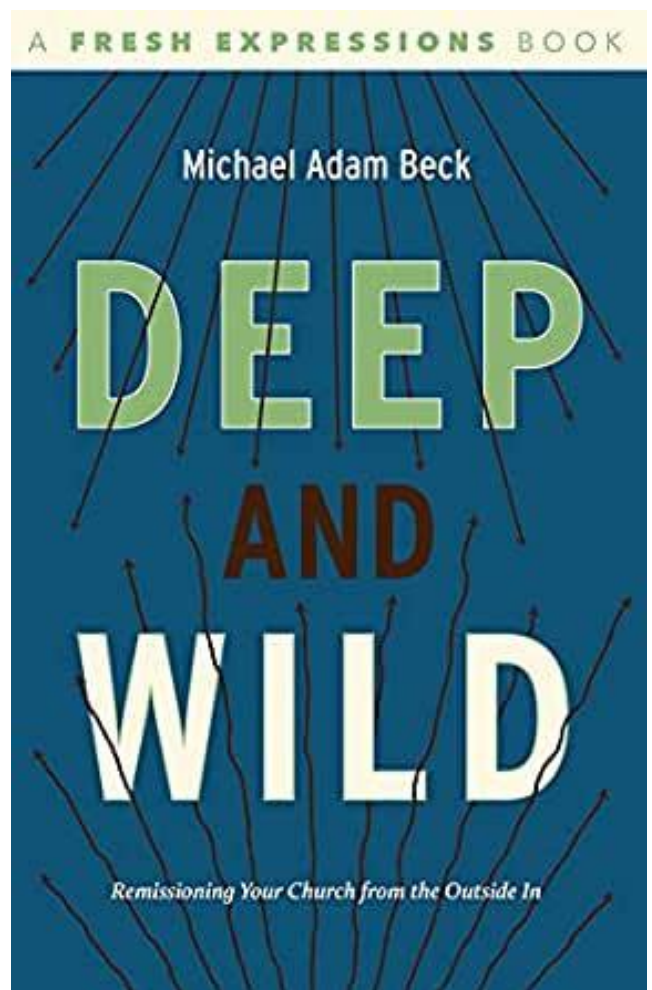
Any one of us can ask four simple questions to people we already know and like, and that's the basis for a simple and life-changing Bible discussion. For a long time, the Church has taken a "if we build it, they will come" view of ministry. We built it, and they didn't come. Now our job is to go out into those spaces where community is already being built (coffee shops, diners, book groups, libraries, etc.).

Ideally, those areas where you're already part of the community that has been built.

We'll walk this journey, one step at a time, together. We can do this, and in the process, we'll make our community a better and more loving place.

Blessings,

Rev Mark Vorenkamp



This is the book we will be working from, if you're interested in finding yourself a copy :)



2022 Adopt-A-Highway

This year the Adopt-A-Highway dates are April 23-May 1, July 16-24 and September 24-October 2.

Our Adopt-A-Highway area runs down M-21 from the Maple River, through Muir, past our church, to Westbrook Road which is three miles. Volunteers are needed to help with the trash pickup, as the volunteers able to help are dwindling. Last year, there were four people to pick up the three miles and having more volunteers will help. If you would like to volunteer for this community service, please contact Barb Davarn at 989-224-3849.

We are in desperate need of volunteers for this event.

Community Garden

Dawn Kemp has been gracious enough to run our community garden again this year!!

You can find info on Facebook at LMC Community Garden!!

Spread the word!! There has been little to no community involvement and the garden is currently in full bloom.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The AAH program began in Michigan in 1990.
- Today, around 2,900 groups have adopted more than 6,000 miles of state highway.
- In a typical year, these volunteers collect 60,000 to 70,000 bags of trash annually, an estimated \$5 million value for the state.
- Volunteers pick up litter three times each year.
- The cost savings can be significant. In Texas, 10% of its roadways (9,000 miles) are adopted, which saves the state \$5 million annually. Today all but a few states run Sponsor A Highway programs for companies to pay others to clean up roadways on their behalf.
- On March 9, 1985, the first-ever Adopt-a-Highway sign is erected on Texas's Highway 69. The highway was adopted by the Tyler Civitan Club, which committed to picking up trash along a designated two-mile stretch of the road.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lyons-Muir Church is called to be God's healing and hope-filled congregation, and to make followers of Jesus Christ for the positive transformation of our community through lives of prayer, love, forgiveness, honesty, acceptance, and trust.



This year our VBS will involve a mix of crafts, science, story-telling with our puppet, music, and a light dinner! We're excited to welcome the children of this community to our church once more.

Questions?

Call Barb Davarn:

989-225-3849.

Week of August 14-18, 2022

Lyons-Muir Introduction Series

July 3, 2022

"Who I Am" 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

My ministry verse is that we're called to be a people who reconciles, accepts, loves, and integrates the people whom others are choosing to ignore. LGBTQIA people, people who look different, speak different, come from different places.

July 10, 2022

"The Past" Ecclesiastes 7:8-12

Let us not be defined by our past but allow it to embolden and inspire us to harness this present moment to create a future that is as powerful and vital as what our forefathers and foremothers did to get these churches to where they are now.

July 17, 2022

"The Present" Ephesians 5:15-17

Let us not squander the present moment but harness it to build the kind of future we dream of. Things become harder with the passage of time, the aging of congregations, and the dwindling of funds. The present moment is a gift.

July 24, 2022

"The Future" Isaiah 43:19

The future is not going to look like the past, just as the church of today looks nothing like the church of 30 AD. We must work to build a future that is tailor-made for the world we live in now and the world of the future. God is always doing something new.

July 31, 2022

"Together" 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Building the future is going to take every one of us, working in the gifts that God gave us. Each of you was placed here with specific gifts and graces to accomplish something for God's kingdom right here in Ionia/Lyons-Muir. We need everyone.

